(a) what special facilities are being offered to foreign tourists; and

(b) the details for different parts of the country separately ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Tourist facilities are generally made available to both Domestic and Foreign Tourists. Discover India packages on Indian Airlines, Indrail Passes on Trains, Foreign Tourist Quota on Trains through International Tourist Bureaus at Metro Cities are the main facilities especially extended to foreign tourists.

Business deals in tourism during American President's Visit

3943. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and American companies have clinched business deals in the tourism sector during the visit of President Clinton to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

3944. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of total amount set by the Central Government for the development of tourism in the country especially in Kerala during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any detailed scheme has been submitted by the State Government for the overall development of tourism in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Rs. 16132.00 lakhs have been allocated during the Ninth Five Plan for development of tourist infrastructure in the country in the Central sector.

Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year. Rs. 1524.33

lakhs have been sanctioned for 36 tourism projects in Kerala during the first three years of Ninth Plan.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Tamil Nadu

3945. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are proposals to construct Yatri Niwas at Madurai, Yelegiri, Vellore in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, when these proposals will be materialised and when Government will release funds; and

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and if so, what is the Centre's and State Government's share ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai and Yelegiri were prioritised for Central financial assistance in consultation with the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1999-2000. On the basis of proposals received thereafter Rs. 38.10 lakhs has been sanctioned for Yatri Niwas at Madurai as Centre's share. Rs. 30.00 lakhs has also been approved for Yatri Niwas at Yelegiri as Centre's share. State Government's share in these projects is Rs. 14.00 lakhs and Rs. 10 00 lakhs respectively.

Foreign investment in modernisation of Tourism Industry

†3946. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow foreign investment in tourism industry and other related activities for their promotion in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this decision will be helpful in attracting foreign investment in the country ; and

(d) what extent this decision will be helpful in the modernisation of tourism industry and in the earnings likely to be made by the same?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.